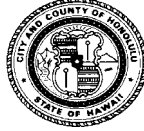


**CHARTER COMMISSION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHARTER COMMISSION DECIDES ON 18 CHARTER AMENDMENTS FOR 2006
BALLOT**

HONOLULU, HAWAII, May 12, 2006

On Wednesday, the 2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission spent over eight hours considering 20 remaining proposals, and voted to approve an additional seven proposed amendments to the city charter. The Commission has chosen a total of 18 proposed charter amendments to be placed on the 2006 General Election ballot for voter approval:

PROPOSAL 1 - Salary Commission; Amend provision regarding Council review of Commission findings.

PROPOSAL 5 - Elections; Eliminate the first special election when there are only two candidates for an office.

PROPOSAL 27 - Liquor Commission and Civil Service; Exempt Liquor Control Administrator and Deputy Administrator from civil service.

PROPOSAL 28 - Ethics Commission; Allow the Ethics Commission to impose civil fines.

PROPOSAL 33 - Department of Emergency Services; Revise the Powers, Duties and Functions of the Director and the Department.

PROPOSAL 34 - Budget; Administration and enforcement of the executive capital budget ordinance -- lapse in 12 rather than 6 months.

PROPOSAL 35 - Department of Information Technology; Revise the Powers, Duties and Functions of the Director.

PROPOSAL 36 - Fire Chief; Revise the Powers, Duties and Functions of the Fire Chief and the Fire Department.

PROPOSAL 51 - Department of Customer Services; Include the Director of Customer Services as a department head who must be nominated by the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the Council, and may be removed by the Mayor.

PROPOSAL 55 - Term Limits and Staggered Terms; Re term limits and staggered terms for Councilmembers.

PROPOSAL 71 - Department of Environmental Services; Comprehensive curbside recycling program.

PROPOSAL 75 – Ethics Commission; Include the prohibition against Ethics Commissioners taking an active part in political management or political campaigns set forth in the Hawaii Constitution Article XIV.

PROPOSAL 76 – Police; Delete prohibition of political activities by police department employees.

PROPOSAL 78 – Civil Defense Agency; Delete the reference to Civil Defense Agency in "Appointment, Confirmation and Removal of Officers and Employees".

PROPOSAL 91 - Property Taxes and New Fund; Set aside one-half percent (1/2%) of real property tax revenues for land and natural resources protection and one-half percent (1/2%) of real property tax revenues for affordable housing.

PROPOSAL S-6 - Petitions; Delete requirement of Social Security numbers on petitions.

PROPOSAL S-9 - Department of Transportation Services - Revise Powers, Duties and Functions; Promote pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly city

PROPOSAL S-10 - Public notices; Distribution of public notices via a widely accessible electronic medium.

Commission Chair Donn Takaki said, “This has been a long and rigorous process. We began last summer with over a hundred formal proposals and many more ideas. We’ve held more than

twenty public meetings and many in-depth discussions about the future of our city government. We now have 18 strong proposals for updating our city charter, and look forward to November when the voters make the final decision.”

Chair Takaki continued, “We want to say thank you to the many citizens, government leaders, and organization representatives who took the time to attend our meetings and provide valuable input on the charter proposals. We encourage everyone to stay involved in this process and help us get the word out to Honolulu’s voters in the fall.”

The approved proposals will now be referred to the Commission’s Style Committee for stylistic or technical changes and legal/agency review. Ultimately, the finalized proposed charter amendments will be placed on the 2006 General Election ballot for voter approval.

LEARN ABOUT THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS. Copies of all proposals are posted as PDF files on the Commission website, <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc>. Hard copies are also available for viewing at the Commission office at 711 Kapiolani Boulevard Suite 1485, or the Municipal Library in the City Council Annex at 558 S. King Street.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION. The Charter Commission is a 13-member appointed body responsible for revising the city charter, the governing document for the City & County of Honolulu. The convening of a Charter Commission provides a rare and important opportunity for major changes to city government. This is only the fourth Charter Commission convened since the adoption of the city charter in 1972.

For more information, visit the Charter Commission website at <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc> or contact the Commission staff at 592-8622 or charter@honolulu.gov.

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